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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 2011, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Compassionate and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As this House comes together at the end of the week, bless the work of its Members.

Give them strength, fortitude, and patience. Fill their hearts with charity, their minds with understanding, their wills with courage to do the right thing for all of America.

As it is so often easy for all of us to focus on what separates one from another, may our understanding that You have created us as one people remind us of the values that bind us all together as Americans in the human family. May that reminder empower the Members of this House to act courageously in the work they have to do for all Americans.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NUNNELEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GOVERNOR WALLER

(Mr. NUNNELEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mississippi experienced a great loss this week with the death of Governor Bill Waller. He served as our Governor from 1972 to 1976, and he provided steady leadership during tumultuous times in our State. He believed that Mississippi should be a place of liberty and justice for all.

Under his leadership, we had the largest pay raise for teachers in our State's history up to that point and the most significant investment in infrastructure and highways up to that point, all while leaving our State with the largest surplus in its history up to that point.

Mississippi is a better place because of Governor Waller's leadership; and this week, we mourn his passing.

THE ELECTION PREVENTION ACT

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, this week I voted against H.R. 3094, the so-called Workplace Democracy and Fairness Act, or, as it has become known, the Election Prevention Act. This bill's sole purpose is to delay and prevent workers from voting in workplace elections. It proposes a 35-day mandatory waiting period before a union election can be held. It encourages frivolous suits to be filed against union formation, and it allows companies to handpick union voters.

In Maine we have a tradition of incredibly hardworking people who are essential to the health, education, and safety of our families. Collective bargaining has been at the heart of American labor since the rise of trade unions during the 19th century. Thanks to strong unions and thousands of workers, over the years we have enacted child labor laws, laws for maternity leave, and we don't have to fear unemployment if we get sick.

I am proud to stand here today with organized labor and with the NLRB, which has served our workers so well.

PULSE OF TEXAS—JOHN ON ENERGY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I recently received this email from John of Houston, giving the pulse of Texans:

"As one of the 9.2 million people whose livelihoods is supported by America's oil and natural gas industry, I am troubled by recent calls to raise taxes on our industry—one of the few bright spots in the American economy.

"Despite an economic slow-down, the oil and natural gas industry is creating jobs and can create many more.

"As Washington focuses on improving our struggling economy, Congress has an opportunity to take our economy in a new direction—one that leads to economic growth and energy security.

"By promoting policies that encourage domestic oil and natural gas production, we can create 1.4 million much needed jobs and generate \$800 billion in additional government revenue by 2030."

Mr. Speaker, John, a person who works for a living, understands better than Washington elites that our God-given natural resources should be used to create jobs for Americans.

Time to stop sending American money and jobs to Middle Eastern countries to buy their natural resources. Time to start supporting American energy workers and American businesses.

And that's just the way it is.

PAYROLL TAX CUT

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I am asking the House to pass the expansion of the payroll tax cuts, which will put more money in the pockets of Americans and will boost economic growth and job creation.

American workers have received bigger paychecks in 2011 because of the payroll tax cut, helping families to pay their grocery bills, to pay their rents and mortgages, and helping to support local businesses. Allowing the payroll tax cuts to expire at the end of this month will result in less money in the pockets of hardworking middle class families at a time when our economy and our families can least afford it. With global financial uncertainty threatening our domestic recovery, this is not the time to take money out of the pockets of working families.

A family earning \$50,000 a year will receive a tax cut of about \$1,000 if the 2 percent payroll tax cut is extended. For Rhode Island, this would add \$400 million to the paychecks of roughly 600,000 workers. Expanding the payroll tax cut to 3.1 percent, as the President has proposed, could increase the flow of capital into our local economy in Rhode Island to approximately \$700 million.

It's time for Congress to stand up for working American families by extending and expanding the payroll tax cut now.

FORT LEAVENWORTH CHANGE OF COMMAND

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Last week I had the immense pleasure of joining the folks at Fort Leavenworth for the Change of Command ceremony to welcome Lieutenant General David Perkins as the new commanding general of Fort Leavenworth, home of the prestigious Command and General Staff College.

It was fitting that General Perkins, a West Point grad, distinguished Iraq war commander and decorated career serviceman, took his post during Military Family Appreciation Month as his two children, Chad and Cassandra, both serve in the Army. There is no doubt that General Perkins, his wife, Ginger, and their two wonderful children exemplify what it means to be a military family.

I want to extend a warm welcome to General Perkins and my deepest thanks to departing General Robert Caslen, who has left Fort Leavenworth for his new post as Chief of Security Cooperation in Iraq.

Thank you both for your service to the Fort Leavenworth community and to our country.

EXTEND THE PAYROLL TAX CUT

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. The Census Bureau recently reported that 100 million Americans are on the brink of poverty. Maybe now Tea Partiers here in Congress will realize what millions of people already know, which is that Americans are barely getting by and that the misguided Republican agenda of deregulation, higher taxes for the middle class and tax cuts for the rich will do nothing for those who are struggling.

We should extend the payroll tax cut, toss a lifeline to struggling Americans who can barely make ends meet, and stop holding small businesses and American families hostage with the threat of higher taxes.

I hope my Tea Party colleagues will take a moment to put the interests of the majority of Americans over those of overpaid bankers and oil executives. We must extend the payroll tax cut, help renew opportunity, and restore the American Dream to the American people.

□ 0910

REGULATORY REFORM

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, despite the supercommittee's inability to come to a bipartisan agreement recently, we

cannot stand idly by and hope that someone will fix the problem. Rather, we must come together to find common ground today.

In the President's address before this body just a short time ago, he called for the removal of burdensome regulations on small businesses. I certainly hope that that's something that both Republicans and Democrats can agree upon.

As a small business owner, I know that the economic uncertainty facing job creators today is largely based upon the threat of thousands of pages of new regulations that are coming out day after day. What we need to do is implement smart regulations and repeal duplicative and burdensome regulations that stand in the way of job creation.

We can all agree that we want clean air, clean water a healthy environment, and consumer protection, so let's come together and implement smart regulations and get rid of the redtape and excessive regulations that are keeping our job creators and entrepreneurs from growing and expanding their businesses and hiring more workers.

Let's get America back to work.

PUTTING AMERICA TO WORK

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. I agree, let's do something meaningful to put America back to work. Let's put millions to work rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure.

The Speaker promised us we'd do that this month, the Republicans would bring a surface transportation bill to the House, and they said no, can't figure out how to pay for it. It's more important to continue tax cuts for the rich.

Now, with millions unemployed, can't find jobs, the Republicans want to jerk their lifeline. They want to kill off extended unemployment benefits. To do what? Preserve tax cuts for the rich, the job creators. Ah, they're doing a heck of a job creating jobs, aren't they?

This is the discredited theory of trickle-down economics. America's unemployed are being trickled on, and it stinks.

CANADIAN KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE CREATES JOBS

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, this President simply does not understand America's energy needs.

Two weeks ago, this administration let politics trump policy by needlessly delaying the Canadian Keystone XL Pipeline. This is inexcusable.

The pipeline would carry 1.1 million barrels of oil per day to gulf coast refineries, create 20,000 American jobs,